

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

AGR-20 TAR-02 IO-13 INT-08 RSR-01 /226 W

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R 091930Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8601

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, BB, BH , BW, GY,JM, TD, US

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

REF:(A) STATE 099857

(B) GEORGETOWN A-24, APRIL 2, 1973

(C) GEORGETOWN 545

(D)GEORGETOWN A-37, JUNE 4, 1973

(E) GEORGETOWN A-47, JUNE 26, 1973

1. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED VOLUMINOUSLY DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON THIS SUBJECT, VIZ "COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN: FURTHER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF DIVISION"(REF B), "COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONCLUDES WITH"GEORGETOWN ACCORD"(REF C), "GUYANA RATIFIES GEORGETOWN ACCORD"(REF D) AND"GEORGETOWN ACCORD AND DRAFT TREATY ESTABLISHING CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY INCLUDING CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET"(REF E). FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF GUAYANA' S POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

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UP-DATED TO INCLUDE JULY 4 SIGNING OF COMMON MARKET TREATY.

2. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL, VIEW THEMSELVES IN FOREFRONT OF DRIVE FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, THEIR INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES ARE BASICALLY POLITICAL, NOT ECONOMIC. GUYANA STANDS TO GAIN LITTLE FROM CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET(CCM) IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IT WILL CONTINUE, AS UNDER CARIFTA, TO SHOW NET TRADE DEFICIT WITH CCM PARTNERS, WHILE IMMEDIATE DOMESTIC IMPACT OF CCM COULD BE MINIMAL. WITH HIGHEST AVERAGE TARIFF LEVEL OF "BIG FOUR", GOG EXPECTED BEGIN PHASE DOWN TO COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF AFTER JULY 16 NATIONAL ELECTION. PUBLIC, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BENEFIT AS LOWER IMPORT DUTIES TO BE OFFSET BY INCREASED EXCISE TAXES. FOR MAN-IN-THE-STREET, CCM MEANS CONTINUING INFLOW LOWER QUALITY, HIGHER PRICED JAMAICAN AND TRINIDADIAN PRODUCTS. GENERALLY UNINFORMED AND DISCERNING NO PARTICULAR BENEFIT FOR THEMSELVES, BUSINESS AND LABOR REGARD CCM WITH APATHY; THEY WERE NEITHER CONSULTED NOR WAS TREATY TEXT MADE AVAILABLE OR EXPLAINED TO THEM. OPPOSITION COMMUNIST-LED PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY VOTED AGAINST, AND MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE UNITED FORCE ABSTAINED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON RATIFICATION OF GEORGETOWN ACCORD. DEBATE (AS HAVE SERIES REGIONAL INTEGRATION EFFORTS BEGINNING WITH OCTOBER, 1972 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE AT CHAGUARAMAS) DREW CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION. UNLIKE PRESS TREATMENT OF SUBJECT IN ABSTRACT, HOWEVER, WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO GUYANA'S ACCESSION TONE OF MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC BUT ONE OF RESIGNATION AND QUESTIONING AS TO WHAT THE COUNTRY COULD REALIZE FROM COMMUNITY. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE JULY 4 SIGNING CEREMONY ACCOMPANIED BY HOPES THAT PROMISE OF NEW REGIONAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE BORNE OUT. COMMON MARKET HAS NOT FIGURED SIGNIFICANTLY IN CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. JAGAN MADE A FEW JABS TIMED WITH THE SIGNING, BUT ELECTORATE UNABLE TO RELATE TO ISSUE INVOLVING UNCLEAR BENEFITS AT SOME INDETERMINATE POINT IN FUTURE.

3. THWARTED IN THEIR NEAR TERM GOAL OF POLITICAL FEDERATION, BURNHAM AND RAMPHAL SEE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AS POTENTIAL SECOND BEST INSTRUMENT FOR SHAPING AND EXPANDING REGIONAL COORDINATION ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. ONE OBJECTIVE OF CLOSER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN TIES IS TO INSURE REGIONAL BACKING IN EVENT RECRUDESCENCE VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL CLAIM AGAINST GUYANA AND, MORE IMMEDIATELY, TO OBTAIN IDB MEMBERSHIP. ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BROADER FRONT, PM AND RAMPHAL BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN FUNCTIONS AS UNIT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC BLOCS. COMMUNITY AND CCM PORTRAYED AS STRENGTHENING REGION'S HAND IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC, WHICH GUYANA HOPES WILL RESULT IN GUARANTEE DSUGAR MARKET(AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND ASSISTANCE TO THE LESS DEVELOPED TERRITORIES) WITH ONLY MINIMAL OR NO CONCESSIONS IN RETURN. NOT THELEAST IMPORTANT, THEY SEE

MORE STRUCTURED COMMUNITY FORUMS AS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES TO
CAREFULLY PROMOTE GUYANA'S AMBITIONS AS THIRD WORLD AND "PROGRESSIVE"
REGIONAL LEADER ON SUCH ISSUES AS GOV'T CONTROL OF NATURAL RE-
SOURCES AND CONTROL OF "COMMANDING HEIGHTS OF ECONOMY",
FORMATION OF ORGANIZATION OF BAUXITE EXPORTING COUNTRIES, ETC. THEIR
UNSPOKEN HOPE STILL REMAINS ULTIMATE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNITY INTO
SOME FORM OF REGIONAL POLITICAL UNITY. KING

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